

Amendments to the Specification

The paragraph starting at page 4, line 15 and ending at line 29 has been amended as follows.

[0014] As seen in Figure 1, a tear string 7 is provided having one end 2 secured inside the pouch 1 in any convenient manner. The string 7 extends the length of the pouch, exits the pouch through a gel-tight seal at the opposite end of the pouch from that containing end 2 and is folded so that its tag end 8 is located outside pouch 1, extending through membrane 6 and padding 4. By this construction the surgeon may simply grasp the ends 9 of the padding 4 (see Figure 3), membrane and splint material and pull the tag end 8 of string 7 (which may have a pull ring 9 10 or tag thereon). This will cause the string in pouch 1 to tear open the side of the pouch allowing the gel to escape and come into contact with the splint material 3. This process may be facilitated by the surgeon's hands and fingers kneading the gel over the entire surface of the sheet material. The gel will be contained by the water tight membrane 6 so that it contacts only sheets 3 and does not contact the padding sleeve 4, thereby assuring that the padding remains dry and, when the splint is applied to the patient's limb, only the dry padding contacts the limb, thereby avoiding problems of infection and itching.